

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A system comprising:

2 a controller configured to select an identifier associated with a media object
3 to send a request to play the media object, wherein the controller
4 sends the request by transmitting the identifier stored in the
5 controller; and

6 an appliance configured to receive the request from the controller, to
7 retrieve the media object from a first server via a network connection
8 when the media object is not stored in the appliance, and to play the
9 media object.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the identifier is transmitted using a wireless
2 connection.

1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein the controller and the first server are
2 synchronized on a predetermined time period.

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1 4. The system of claim 3, wherein the first server stores the media objects
2 corresponding to the identifiers stored in the controller.

1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein the media object is retrieved from the first
2 server using the identifier received from the controller.

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3 thumbnail images, and a text input area to generate text to associate with
4 the one thumbnail image.

1 21. The system of claim 1, wherein the appliance is operable to play a media
2 object not stored in the controller, and wherein the controller imports the
3 identifier associated with the media object by sending a request to import
4 the identifier not stored in the controller.

AN ✓ 1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein in response to the request to import the
2 identifier not stored in the controller, the appliance sends the identifier and
3 a reduced visual representation of the corresponding media object.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the reduced visual representation is a
2 thumbnail image of the corresponding media object.

1 24. The system of claim 21, wherein the request to import the identifier not
2 stored in the controller is sent with payment information.

1 25. The system of claim 1, wherein the appliance stores the media object in a
2 cache.

1 26. The system of claim 1, wherein the appliance is one in a group comprising
2 a personal computer, a stereo receiver, and a television.

1 27. The system of claim 26, wherein the controller operates with multiple
2 appliances.

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1 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the means for performing access
2 8+9 authorization comprises means for encrypting the media object and means
3 for decrypting the media object.

1 34. The system of claim 29, wherein the third means for storing the media
2 objects comprises means for synchronizing with the first means to enable
3 the first means to have the identifiers associated with the media objects
4 stored in the third means.

1 35. The system of claim 29, wherein the first means is operable with one or
2 more second means.

1 36. The system of claim 29, wherein the first means comprises means for
2 organizing the identifiers using thumbnail image representations of the
3 media objects associated with the identifiers.

1 37. ^{ly} An apparatus comprising: (1st & 2nd identifiers)
2 means for transmitting a first identifier associated with a first media object
3 to request the first media object be played;
4 means for acquiring a second identifier associated with a second media
5 object while the second media object is being played; and
6 means for organizing the first and the second identifiers.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 37, further comprising means for storing the first
2 and the second identifiers.

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1 39. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the means for acquiring the second
2 24 identifier comprises means for transmitting a payment information.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the means for acquiring the second
2 identifier further comprises means for generating a decryption key when
3 the second media object is in an encrypted form.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the means for organizing the first and
2 the second identifiers comprises:
3 means for displaying the first media object and the second media object as
4 thumbnail images, and
5 means for organizing the thumbnail images in groups.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 41, wherein the groups comprise:
2 a first group comprising the thumbnail images, and
3 a second group comprising subgroups of selected thumbnail images from
4 the first group.

1 43. The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the second group comprises:
2 a first subgroup including one or more playlists, each of the playlists
3 comprising one or more thumbnail images; and
4 a second subgroup including one or more thumbnail images in a playlist
5 being created.